

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /057 W

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R 170440Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8982

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6119

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DAOUD'S DEPARTURE FOR COLOMBO

REF: KABUL 6034

1. PRESIDENT DAOUD DEPARTED KABUL MORNING AUGUST 15 FOR COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING. MEMBERS OF AFGHAN DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING DAOUD WERE COMMERCE MINISTER JALALLAR; DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA), SAMAD GHAUS; AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA ABDURAHMAN PAZHWAQ; AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, MFA, ANWAR NAWROZ. ALSO ACCOMPANYING DAOUD WERE AIDES DE CAMP LT. COL. AHMAD SHAH, MAJOR ENAYATULLAH, AND LT. ABDUL MAJID, AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY GHULAM RASUL YUSUFI AND OTHER NEWSMEN.

2. PRESENT AT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES WERE MEMBERS OF CABINET, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, OTHER HIGH GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS AND ASSEMBLED DIPLOMATIC CORPS. JARRING NOTE WAS PROVIDED BY PRESENCE OF AJMAL KHATTAK, EXILED FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY. KHATTAK'S PRESENCE LED PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR TO DEPART ABRUPTLY WITHOUT BIDDING FAREWELL TO PRESIDENT DAOUD.

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3. COMMENT: AS PRESIDENT DAOUD WILL VISIT ISLAMABAD FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH P.M. BHUTTO AFTER COLOMBO, THE KHATTAK INCIDENT IS REGRETTABLE. SIMILAR NEAR-COLLISION OF KHATTAK AND PAK AMBASSADOR IN PRESIDENT DAOUD'S PRESENCE TOOK PLACE DURING CELEBRATIONS OF 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF COUP IN JULY (KABUL 5506). WHILE APPEARING TO CONTRADICT HOPEFUL ATMOSPHERE OF PAK/AFGHAN RAPPROACHMENT, WE BELIEVE KHATTAK'S PRESENCE MAY BE INTENDED TO DISARM DOMESTIC CRITICS OF RAPPROCHEMENT RATHER THAN TO POSE OBSTACLES.
ELIOT

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